

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A dual wall drill string assembly which allows dual circulation adapted for any subsurface drilling, said assembly comprising:

- (A) a metallic outer tube having:
 - (1) an outer tube first end;
 - (2) an outer tube second end opposite the outer tube first end;
- (B) a flexible, substantially non-metallic inner tube that is substantially enclosed within and generally coaxially aligned with the outer tube, said inner tube having:
 - (1) an inner tube first end;
 - (2) an inner tube second end opposite the inner tube first end which defines a tube length therebetween;
 - (3) an inner tube diameter which is generally constant along the tube length from the inner tube first end to the inner tube second end;

wherein the inner tube and the outer tube define an annular channel there between;

- (C) a means for conveying fluid through the annular channel toward the inner tube first end;

wherein the annular channel is adapted to convey drilling fluid under pressure toward the inner tube first end, and the inner tube is adapted to convey cuttings toward the inner tube second end.

Claim 2 (original): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the outer tube comprises a plurality of rigid outer tube sections, each of said rigid outer tube sections having a pair of threaded ends adapted to be removably connected to a threaded end on another rigid outer tube section.

Claim 3 (original): The assembly of claim 1 including a drilling mechanism adjacent to the inner tube first end.

Claim 4 (original): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the inner tube includes a means for reinforcing the inner tube, which means does not substantially restrict the flexibility of the outer tube.

Claim 5 (original): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the inner tube comprises a conductive element for conveying a signal an/or electricity.

Claim 6 (original): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the conductive element is continuous from the inner tube first end to the inner tube second end.

Claim 7 (original): The assembly of claim 5 including a steering mechanism adapted to receive the signal from the conductive element and monitor the direction of the drilling mechanism.

Claim 8 (original): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the conductive element is substantially enclosed within the inner tube.

Claim 9 (original): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the conductive element comprises at least one metallic or fiber optic material.

Claim 10 (original): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the conductive element comprises metallic wire, metallic mesh or thin wall pipe.

Claim 11 (original): The assembly of claim 1 including at least one centering element that is located in the annular channel.

Claim 12 (original): The assembly of claim 11 wherein each centering element comprises a flexible sleeve adapted to maintain the outer tube and the inner tube in a substantially concentric as well as axial relationship to each other, said flexible sleeve having at least one opening therein.

Claim 13 (original): The assembly of claim 12 wherein the cumulative area of the opening or openings in each flexible sleeve is less than or equal to the cross-sectional area defined by the inner tube inner diameter.

Claim 14 (original): The assembly of claim 12 wherein the cumulative area of the opening or openings in each flexible sleeve is greater than the cross-sectional area defined by the inner tube inner diameter.

Claim 15 (original): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the flexible inner tube comprises a plurality of flexible inner tube sections, each of said flexible inner tube sections having a male connection end and a female connection end, each male section end being adapted to be connected to a female connection end on another flexible inner tube section and each female connect and being adapted to be connected to a male connection end on another flexible inner tube section.

Claim 16 (original): The assembly of claim 15 wherein each flexible inner tube section is in signal and/or electrical communication with each adjacent flexible inner tube section.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for subsurface drilling using dual circulation, said method comprising the steps of:

- (A) providing a flexible dual wall drill string assembly, said assembly comprising:
 - (1) a metallic outer tube having:
 - (i) an outer tube first end;
 - (ii) an outer tube second end opposite the outer tube first end;
 - (2) a flexible, substantially non-metallic inner tube that is substantially enclosed within and generally coaxially aligned with the outer tube, said inner tube having:
 - (i) an inner tube first end;
 - (ii) an inner tube second end opposite the inner tube first end which defines a tube length therebetween;
 - (iii) an inner tube inner diameter which is generally constant along the

tube length from the inner tube first end to the inner tube second end;
wherein the inner tube and the outer tube define an annular channel therebetween;

(3) a means for conveying fluid through the annular channel toward the inner tube first end;

wherein the annular channel is adapted to convey drilling fluid under pressure toward the inner tube first end, and the inner tube is adapted to convey cuttings toward the inner tube second end; and

(B) drilling a subsurface borehole by circulating drilling fluid down the annular channel which is formed between the inner tube and the outer tube and by then returning cuttings up the inner tube diameter to the surface.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 which includes drilling a substantially vertical subsurface borehole.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17 which includes drilling an arcuate path this is substantially vertical.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 17 which includes drilling an arcuate path that is generally horizontal.